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THE GENERAL CROP REPORT

BROADCAST BY E. J. ROWELL, AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1941, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PERIOD, NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR OVER THE BLUE NETWORK OF THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY.

--ooOoo--

KADDERLY:

As we promised yesterday, E. J. "Mike" Rowell of the Agricultural Marketing Service is with us today to give some of the highlights from the General Crop Report which was issued at exactly 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. And I notice he has the complete report with him.

ROWELL:

Yes, Wallace, all 58 pages of it covering production per acre, total production for the country as a whole and for each important producing State, and a lot of other things for more than 45 commodities.

KADDERLY:

But we'll touch on only a few of them--as we've done several times before.

ROWELL:

Right. You name some of the more important commodities--that is, more important for the country as a whole--and then I'll give the latest information on this year's production of that crop.

KADDERLY:

Before we do that let's have a brief statement on national crop prospects.

ROWELL:

They were reduced only slightly by the dry weather in August, and, as this report points out, they are outstandingly favorable on the whole. Crop production this year is expected to be nearly 2 percent above last year, and much larger than in any previous year except in 1937. The production of feed grains this year will be above average but hardly equal to the prospective feeding requirements, but we can call on some of the large stocks which have been accumulated since the drought years. Several crops show relatively low production, but no shortage of supplies. The cotton crop is unusually small; tobacco production will be less than in most recent years, and--well, you start that list, Wallace.

KADDERLY:

All right. I'll name corn first.

ROWELL:

The estimate is for more than 2 billion, 500 million bushels, a little less than expected a month ago and a little bigger than last year's crop.

KADDERLY:

Wheat--all kinds added together--

ROWELL:

958 million bushels. The second largest crop on record.

KADDERLY:

Oats--

(OVER)

ROWELL:

Prospects down about 18 million bushels, with production now estimated at one and an eighth billion bushels.

KADDERLY:

Barley--

ROWELL:

350 million bushels, the largest on record.

KADDERLY:

Rice--

ROWELL:

Over 60 million bushels--15 percent over last year. And right now it looks as though it would be the biggest rice crop ever produced in this country.

KADDERLY:

What about soy beans?

ROWELL:

The largest crop on record--nearly 111 million bushels--30 million bushels over last year.

KADDERLY:

Next, apples--

ROWELL:

12 percent bigger than the 1940 crop. 2 percent bigger than the average of 1934 to 1939. The commercial apple crop is now estimated at 128 million bushels.

KADDERLY:

We mustn't forget potatoes--

ROWELL:

The estimate is for 374 million bushels. That's 4 million bushels more than were expected a month ago, but will give us a crop 6 percent smaller than last year.

KADDERLY:

And hay--

ROWELL:

A little over 96 million tons is expected; that's about the same as was expected a month ago and the second largest crop in 25 years.

KADDERLY:

Just two more commodities: Milk and eggs.

ROWELL:

Milk production per cow declined less than usual during August, and on September 1st again established a new high record for that date. In relation to population, milk production was the highest for September in the 17 years for which we have records.

KADDERLY:

And finally, egg production--

ROWELL:

The rate of egg production per hen continues at a record high level. Also, the total number of eggs laid per hundred hens since the 1st of January is also a record high. Favorable prices for feed and for eggs, together with Secretary Wickard's call for more eggs, have stimulated liberal and better balanced feeding, better management, and the production of better chicks.

KADDERLY:

Thanks, Mike. You have made it evident that the farmers are not letting the nation down when it comes to food supplies.
